

Appl. No. 10/797,237
Atty. Docket No. 9177
Reply to Office Action of April 23, 2007
Customer No. 27752

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REMARKS

Claims 10 - 13 are rejected as anticipated by 3,906,580 (Smith) and as obvious over 6,260,226 (Specht) in view of 2002/0162573 (Fernandez) and further view of 558,074 (Hussey). These patents collectively teach mops and cleaning implements having external locking mechanisms, such as a wing nut (Smith) or clip (Specht). The rejecting references, taken alone or in combination fail to teach or suggest a mop having a locking mechanism incorporated into the universal joint.

Claim 10, as amended hereunder requires the universal joint to have the locking mechanism incorporated therein. This provides a more compact configuration, than found in the prior art and also minimizes the chance of breakage as may occur with a clip, wing nut, etc. The prior art neither suggests a way to achieve the benefit of the compact configuration less prone to breakage nor suggests the solution provided by the claimed invention.

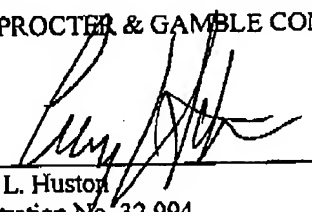
Basis for the amendment is found in the specification (page 16, first paragraph). No new matter is added.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the foregoing amendment and to reconsider and allow claim 10 - 13, as the only claims which remain in the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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